

Sweeney, The Rt. Rev. James Fielding

[Anglican Bishop of Toronto]

Jan. 1916





## Bishop's Room,

60-62 FRONT STREET WEST

Phones : Office, Main 4136  
Residence, Hillcrest 872

Toronto, Jan. 28, 1916.

Rev. Dr. R.A.Falconer,  
President Toronto University,  
Toronto.

Dear Dr. Falconer,

Very many thanks for your report of the University for the year ending 30th. June 1915, which has just come to hand, and which I shall peruse with a great deal of interest. I have, I regret, nothing to send back to you in return unless it be the enclosed, which you might care to see as dealing with the spiritual lessons of the present conflict.

By the way, while I am writing to you, might I venture to say that it would confer a very great favour upon the Clergy of the city contiguous to your University Convocation Hall, if you could arrange for some other hour for holding your Students' Service than that of eleven o'clock, which is, as you know, a generally observed hour for the holding of the Morning Services of the Churches. The truth is that the distinguished Preachers whom you are able to secure for your Services are drawing away large numbers of our congregations, and, to that extent, demoralizing our Services. Have you and the other authorities ever considered the English University system of holding such Services in the afternoon, or have you ever considered the question of limiting the attendance to your students and Staff? Doubtless, you have given consideration to both these points. But the fact, however, remains that I have before me a strong and earnest





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request to communicate with you, and to see if something cannot be done to alter what is felt by many of the Clergy as clashing with their own Parochial Services. I think I know you well enough, and your considerate and judicial mind, to lay this frankly before you, with the earnest hope that you may be able to discover some way out of what at the present time is felt to be a real grievance.

Hoping that you and Mrs. Falconer are well, and wishing you every happiness and blessing in the exalted and gravely-responsible work that falls upon you, believe me, as ever,

Faithfully yours

*James Toronto*



January 31st, 1916

The Right Reverend Bishop Sweeney,  
112 Howland Avenue,  
Toronto.

My dear Bishop:

I fully realise the objections that there are to the holding of the service on Sunday mornings in Convocation Hall at eleven o'clock. This matter has often been before our Committee. Before I came to Toronto it was discussed and since I came here there has been at least one deputation from the Ministerial Association for the purpose of consulting with our committee as to the possibility of changing the service. It has seemed, however, to the committee all along that this is the only hour at which we could hold the services, otherwise we should have to abandon them, and I think you will recognise that this would be unfortunate. Even Queen's University, where the interference with Church services might be much greater than in our case, has changed the hour from three o'clock to eleven o'clock. Our committee also after consulting with the various Colleges and student organisations is of opinion that the amount of actual interference with attendance of students in their regular places of worship is not as large as might be expected. We have been again and again informed that many of the students who come to our services would not attend any Church in the morning, and even at the best the attendance is such a small proportion of the total number of our student body that the overwhelming majority of the Toronto students who have regular



connections with City Churches maintain their former connections and come to the Convocation Hall only on occasion. These services are meant for the students, but we cannot prevent the public from coming. During most of last term we did not advertise the weekly sermons in the newspapers, but there were so many inquiries as to who the preacher was to be that we have found it advisable to resume the publication during this term.

The committee that is responsible for these services is as you are probably aware not an official one, but is made up of members of the various Colleges together with a representative of the Y.M.C.A., and I have acted as Chairman of the committee ever since coming.

You spoke of enclosing some publication. I am sorry that it did not come.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

CHURCHMAN